



City of Kirkland Pesticide Application Guidelines/Policy

March 2018

It is the City of Kirkland's policy to minimize the use and frequency of pesticide (including herbicide) application whenever possible on lands that the City owns or manages. Where pesticide application is appropriate and necessary, City of Kirkland Parks, Grounds, and Green Kirkland Partnership Programs follow these pesticide application guidelines.

(1) Where pesticides (including herbicides) are applied

Pesticides are used sparingly in Parks, natural areas, and other open spaces owned or managed by the City. Areas targeted for pesticide application include:

- Under fencelines on City-owned property and at City parking lot edges;
- Along sidewalk cracks, guardrails, gravel pathways (including warning tracks around athletic fields) and other public trails;
- Around City-owned trees, bollards, trash cans, and in other City-owned areas that are challenging to mow;
- Within City-owned landscape beds, street medians, and City-owned stormwater facilities (e.g., stormwater ponds);
- Wherever regulated Class A and Class B noxious weeds are found on City properties and alternate control methods are not appropriate or effective (as required by State law); and/or
- Wherever other types of noxious or invasive weeds threaten the health of natural areas and alternate control methods are not appropriate or effective.

(2) Why pesticides are applied

Pesticides are applied to achieve specific outcomes, primarily to:

- Effectively reduce overall populations of invasive, noxious weeds (focus on those that do not respond to other control methods, such as mowing, or hand-pulling);
- Create safe sightlines along transportation corridors;
- Protect City infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks and streets); or
- Eliminate safety hazards in public walking, bicycling, or play areas.

(3) Pesticide application in critical areas (e.g., streams, wetlands, lakes)

Generally, City of Kirkland crews and/or contractors avoid pesticide application within 100 feet of surface waters (e.g., streams, wetlands, lakes). Pesticides may only be applied within these areas to eradicate or control noxious weeds as required or if alternate control methods are not appropriate or effective. Only pesticides approved for aquatic use are applied adjacent to or within waterbodies.

(4) Identifying pests (including weeds) and pesticides

Specific noxious weeds are targeted and pesticides are selected in consultation with King County Noxious Weed Control Board and the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. King County Noxious Weed Board updates its noxious weed list on an annual basis and provides

recommendations on which control methods are appropriate for specific weed species. The City strives to use the least controlled pesticide available.

(5) Timing of application

Pesticide application is timed to minimize human, pet, and environmental exposure and to maximize application effectiveness. Pesticide application activities are scheduled to avoid planned events, such as charity fun runs. Whenever possible, pesticide applications are carefully timed to control the pest and reduce the need for retreatment. Key program elements include:

- Spray application in morning hours (fewer visitors are present, pollinators are less active);
- Spray application on calm (low-wind), dry days (avoid pesticide drift or runoff); and
- Seasonal timing (e.g., prior to seed production or when fruit is not present).
- EZ-Ject direct injection into tree trunks or stems of noxious woody shrubs can safely take place year-round.

(6) Application methods

Kirkland uses the following pesticide application methods to control weed species in City-owned natural and open areas, including Parks:

- Backpack sprayer (e.g., along fencelines, warning tracks, and trails and within landscape beds);
- Injectable treatments (e.g., EZ-Ject); and
- Paint or daub cut ends/stems/trunks of weeds with pesticide.

(7) Who is authorized to apply pesticides on City-owned or managed properties

Any pesticide applicator working on behalf of the City must be licensed or working under the supervision of a licensed public operator. Pesticide applicators must comply with all applicable Washington State Licensing Rules.

(8) Notification/Signage

Pesticide application notification signs are placed at major City property entrances prior to pesticide application. Signs are also often posted on fences or immediately adjacent to treated areas. Signs are left up for at least 24 hours after pesticide application and include information about pesticides being applied as well as contacts for additional information.

(9) Pesticide Handling and Storage

The storage and handling of pesticides are regulated by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). This includes storing pesticides in their original containers in a secure and safe location with appropriate ventilation. See the WSDA Pesticide Laws Booklet for detailed requirements <https://agr.wa.gov/FP/Pubs/docs/079-PesticideLawsRulesHandoutBooklet.pdf>.